



主人公(エーちゃん)が、
周々と強くなっていくさまに
ちょっと感動。

勝木 光

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

勝木 光

9



Baby Steps
ベビーステップ

勝木 光

講談社



9784063841886



1929979004194

雑誌 42269-88

ISBN978-4-06-384188-6

C8979 ¥419E (0)

講談社

定価:本体419円(税別)

KC 勝木 光 作品

ベビーステップ 1~以下続刊

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Believe in Yourself!!



Cover Design: Vele

2009. 9
KC

Baby Steps

9



勝木 光
かつき ひかる

FL TENNIS ACADEMY

In Florida

PRODUCED A BUNCH OF PLAYERS WHO BECAME MEM IN THE WORLD. MANY ACTIVE PETS ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY. AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT THAT HAS EVERYTHING THAT'S NEEDED FOR TENNIS.



IKE SOUJI

PROFESSIONAL PLAYER WHO'S ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS IN THE WORLD. HE'S CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE OPEN AND THE U.S. OPEN. HE'S A VERY GOOD PLAYER AND A VERY GOOD PERSON. HE'S THE ONE WHO INSPIRED HER TO BECOME A TENNIS PLAYER.



EI-CHAN'S ROOMMATE
ALEX

A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER WHO FINALLY MANAGED TO WIN THE U.S. OPEN IN THE SECOND ROUND. HE'S A VERY GOOD PLAYER AND A VERY GOOD PERSON. HE'S THE ONE WHO INSPIRED HER TO BECOME A TENNIS PLAYER.



EI-CHAN'S ROOMMATE
TARA ATSUBUHI

HE'S A VERY GOOD PLAYER AND A VERY GOOD PERSON. HE'S THE ONE WHO INSPIRED HER TO BECOME A TENNIS PLAYER.



MARCIA

AUTISMATIC GIRL. SHE'S A VERY GOOD PLAYER AND A VERY GOOD PERSON. HE'S THE ONE WHO INSPIRED HER TO BECOME A TENNIS PLAYER.



EI-CHAN'S ROOMMATE
KRISHNA

OVERSIZED PERSON FROM INDIA. HE'S A VERY GOOD PLAYER AND A VERY GOOD PERSON. HE'S THE ONE WHO INSPIRED HER TO BECOME A TENNIS PLAYER.



BROWN

MARUO EICHIRO

MEMBER OF STC. HE DECIDES THAT HE'LL GIVE UP ON BECOMING A PRO AND FOCUS ON HIS COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM IF HE CAN'T WIN THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT. IN ORDER TO GET IT DONE IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, HE DECIDES TO GO ON A SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD TO A TENNIS ACADEMY IN AMERICA.



MIKE

THE ACADEMY'S COACH. BEFORE, HE TAUGHT EI-CHAN HOW TO PLAY TENNIS. HE'S THE BEST PERSON TO ASK FOR ADVICE.

STAYING IN JAPAN

TAKAHASHI NATSU



MEMBER OF STC. TOP PLAYER IN KANAGAWA, AND IS A NATIONAL LEVEL RANKED TENNIS PLAYER. DUE TO HIS OWN SHORT TENNIS EXPERIENCE, HE'S STRONGLY ENCOURAGES EI-CHAN TO GO.

EI-CHAN STARTS THE 2-WEEK TENNIS STUDY ABROAD IN AMERICA!!



CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

Baby Steps

CONTENTS

#74 PROFESSIONAL.....	005
#75 COMMON SENSE.....	023
#76 ANALYSIS.....	043
#77 STRATEGY.....	061
#78 FEELING AND OUTCOME.....	079
#79 WALL.....	097
#80 SAME.....	115
#81 WANT TO KNOW.....	135
#82 RESULT.....	153
#83 13 DAYS.....	171

to Giant Strides





1:00 PM.
AFTER LUNCH
ARE PRACTICE
MATCHES.



WE WATCH
FROM HERE
DOING IMAGE
TRAINING WHILE
WAITING FOR
OUR TURN

TWENTY
PEOPLE WILL
BE PLAYING
ON FOUR
COURTS
TODAY



ON WEEKENDS,
THERE ARE OFTEN-
TIMES COMPETITIONS
HELD SOMEWHERE,
SO WE SOMETIMES
PARTICIPATE IN
THOSE.

ON WEEKDAY AFTER-
NOONS, AFTER THESE
PRACTICE MATCHES,
WE GO ON WITH
WRAP-UP PRACTICES
THAT ALSO INCLUDE
SELF-REFLECTION

THAT'S THE
END OF COURT
PRACTICE







BASED ON WHAT
I'VE HEARD FROM
THE MORNING
PRACTICE,

EVERYONE
HERE IS EITHER
A PRO, OR IS
MUCH MUCH
BETTER THAN
ME.

1/10



IN-
CRED-
IBLE...



IF IT WERE
JAPAN, IT'D
BE SOME-
THING LIKE
THIS.



THAT'S WHY I WANT
TO PLAY AS MANY
STRONG PLAYERS
AS POSSIBLE.

STRATEGIC
ABILITY IS
A D

THERE ARE MANY
THINGS I MUST
LEARN, BUT WHAT
I NEED THE MOST
IS MATCH EXPERI-
ENCE.

STRATEGIC
ABILITY IS
IMPROVED
THROUGH
EXPERIENCE



Mario and Alex,
Get in!



All right! Next!



THAT
MEANS

A
MATCH
WITH
ALEX



HE SAID
IT'S YOUR
TURN



MARIO?



MY FIRST
MATCH
AGAINST A
PRO...!!













Well, then I'll be doing
my training.

so call me once the
opponent is decided

All right, Souji

But I'm sure he won't let
you win that easily.

So you at least have some
expectations of him



IF THIS... AN
OPPORTUNITY
HAS CREATED
FOR ME!!

!!







FOR NATEU TO
SAY THAT SOMEONE
WILL GET "SUPER
STRONG".... IT
HASN'T HAPPENED
SINCE THEN.



Hmmm...
well then



One set match!



Alex to serve!

How's my brother?

Ohh, Marcia

He's about to play Maruo, but things have gotten interesting

Hi, Atsushi, Krishna!

The winner gets to play THE Ika Souji

Awesome! Then Alex will definitely get to challenge Souji

#75 COMMON SENSE

I know him, Eschire, right?

Sound as precise as definitely Alex

Normally, that's what you'd think but I wonder how it's actually here out

Just Souji seems to have high expectations of him as...

There's no way a pro would lose against someone aiming to win an amateur competition



THE-KUN CREATED
AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR ME TO PLAY
AGAINST A PRO!



WILL I EVEN
BE A PROPER
OPPONENT
AGAINST HIM
RIGHT NOW?



THIS IS MY
FIRST REAL
MATCH
AGAINST A
PRO!

SINCE THAT
LAST MATCH I
PLAYED AGAINST
THE-KUN WAS
STOPPED AND—
HUR!



AND THAT
TAKUMA-SAN
WENT TO
MEET-KUN
THIS MORNING!

NO... IF HE'S
SLIPPED ON THE
TOP FOOO, HE
SHOULD JUST BE
SLIGHTLY BETTER
THAN TAKUMA-
SAN.



IN ORDER TO
WIN THE
ALL-JAPAN
JUNIOR, I
C-NN-NN
LOOSING
HERE.





COME!!





ugh, this is so
tired to be
serious!



THE POWER
OF THE JIGGLING
IS ON A COM-
PLETELY DIFF-
FERENT LEVEL.
SO THIS IS... A
PRO!

15 - LOVE.



LET'S GO
FOR SOMETHING LIKE
THIS!!



1. BY WORKING UP FROM
THE BOTTOM, JIGGLING
A LOT TO RECOVER AFTER
THE CHARGE.



2. CHARGE YOURSELF THE
CORRESPONDING VIBRATION
CONTROL FOR THE BALL A
MOMENT BEFORE THE
IT WILL GO UP. AFTER THAT
FOR A SHORT PERIOD
THE BALL WILL GO UP.

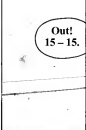


3. WITHOUT ANY
MORE THE POWER
AND YOUR THE
AFTERMATH WITH
A STRONG.

U—M... HMM...
I HAVE TO RECHARGE
MY FORCE AND
FIND MY JIGGLING
PATTERN...









BUT HE SEEMS
TO BE HITTING
FORWARD BLOTT
RIGHT FROM THE
START.

IT'S
DEFINITELY
TRUE THAT
HE MOVED
BY QUOTE A
BIT...



IT'S NOT JUST
ABOUT THE POWER
OF THE BALL.
THERE'S SOME-
THING ELSE.



OH! ANYONE...
IT'S HARD TO
FLY AGAINST IT.



EVEN AT THE
BASELINE, HIS AT-
TACKS HAVE LEFT
ME WITH NO ROOM
TO BREATHE.

AND HIS
VOLLEYS ARE
ONE-SHOT-
KILLS.



AT THIS RATE,
HE'LL HAVE A
PRETTY HARD
TIME.

WORLD-KING IS
PLAYING A
NICE TRICK
WITH YOUR
PRE-
FIXES, BUT



Big bro---!!
That was
great!!



The reason I didn't want to play against you is not because you aren't a pro

Most of the players who come from Axis don't know the "basics" of this world.



The "basics" of Tennis are changed every day by those who stand on top of the world

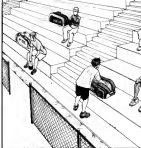
This place is closest to the ruler of the "basics".

**Game, Alex.
3 - 0.**



It can't be helped that an incredible gap is created between

the ones who have seen and experienced that change, and the ones who haven't.





Well, that's how
Aoi's personal
studio is.

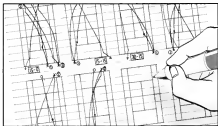
It's a long story
well, that's making a
long unnecessary
sentence.



Ah, he's actually
taking notes.

Eichiro's doing
something weird!

So he was that
during matches
too.



BUT I'M
STARTING TO
GET THE HANG
OF IT...



IT'S CAUSE HE
ATTACKS RIGHT
FROM STEP ONE
BORN. I'M TRYING
TO WIN THE JO-
SHI-KAGE FROM
THE BEGGING.

SAY... HE WON'T
LET ME USE MY
ATTACK PATTERN
AT ALL.



BASICALLY, ALL HIS SHOTS ARE "LOW RISK FINISHES"

THE ONLY TIME HE COMES FOR A VOLLEY IS WHEN HE'S 100% SURE TO FINISH IT WITH ONE SHOT.

RATHER THAN GOING FOR HIGH RISK VOLLEYS, HE TENDS TO GO FOR THE FINISH USING THE LOW-RISK BASELINE SHOTS.



AND FROM ANDO-A-SUN, WHO CHARGES UP HIS SPEED AND POWER ...

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE PURE BASELINE, ADVANCE-A-SUN,

THIS IS PROBABLY THE SOURCE OF MY LINEAGE

AND TENDS OF ATTACK FEELS FAST AND LINEAR.

SINCE HE DOESN'T HAVE THE "1" TAKE THE ADVANTAGE STEP IN MY ATTACK PATTERN.

1. Focus the ball's certain path.
2. Go for the finish if you can.



1. Focus the ball's certain path.
2. Go for the finish if you can.

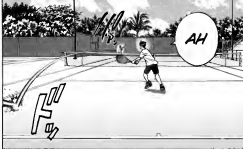
TIME!

EVEN HIS "SLASH" MOVEMENT IS NOTHING IF YOU CONSIDER HOW ALL HIS SHOTS ARE FINISHERS.

IT'S NOT A SIMPLE MATTER IF HE CAN GO FOR THE FINISH WITHOUT EVEN GAINING THE ADVANTAGE ...

AND IT'S ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE HAS THOSE HEAVY SHOTS







RGH



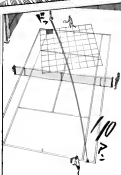
USING
CONTROL,
GO FOR THE
FINISH

RIGHT FROM
THE START...!!



Out. 0 - 30.

THE BALL'S
TOO HEAVY TO
CONTROL!!



1/10
1-2



HA

A



ALL I
CAN DO IS
DEFEND



IRSH



NO... BEFORE
THAT, I'VE GOT
TO GET USED TO
THESE HEAVY
SHOES!!

5 - 0.



I FEEL LIKE I
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO DO SOMETHING IF I CAN
GET USED TO
THIS TRAP..

Game, Alex
4 - 0.



Count:
6-0.

Game, set.
Won by Alex.





**I... I WAS
NO MATCH
FOR HIM...**

**THERE'S THIS KIND
OF TENNIS TOO....!!**



No, it's me

I'm playing
Momo's son.

That was
worse than I
expected.



My pleasure
vary about before

The... about
you no match.



Baby Steps



I have a question
What did you mean by
that back then?

But I'm sure he
won't let you
win that easily.

Oh at least
some respect
to him.

Okay, well,
I'm ready.

We can start as
soon as you're
out, Alex.

Wait a sec,
Scotch.

Nothing much.
That's literally
what I thought

'Cause he started
playing tennis when
he was 15

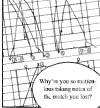
...It hasn't even
been two years
since he started?

Don't you think that's
pretty amazing?





And what's up
with that flea?



Why're you so motion-
less taking notes of
the match you lost?



WHY I...
WAS I ASKING
SUCH A FACET?

WHY SOME
"LOOKING SO
SATISFIED EVEN
THOUGH YOU
LOST. ARE YOU
ENJOYING FUN OF
MY BROTHER?"

Don't you feel
bad about losing
to my brother?



Your brother strong...
I am happy... that
what I think.



I WAS ABLE
TO LEARN A LOT
FROM JUST THIS
ONE MATCH. SO
SO I FEEL GOOD

OF... OF
COURSE I'M
SAD, BUT...









THREE
MATCHES,
THREE
LOSSES...

AFTER ALICE,
I HAD MATCHES
AGAINST KRISHNA
AND ANOTHER PRO
PLAYER.

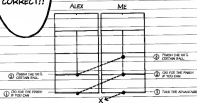
IT SEEMS I'LL
NEED MUCH MORE
ACCURATE TIMING
WHEN I STEP IN
FOR THE DRAGON.

ALTHOUGH
IT DIFFERS
SLIGHTLY FROM
PERSON TO
PERSON, EVERY
PLAYER HERE
HAD HEAVY
BUTTS.

BUT PLAYING
MORE MATCHES
HELPED HE
CLARIFY A LOT
OF STUFF.



YUP,
THAT'S
CORRECT!!





YUP, YOU COULD
CALL THIS A BIG SHIFT
IN MINDSET THAT'S
BEEN GETTING MORE
PREVALENT IN THE
TENNIS WORLD OVER
THE PAST FEW YEARS.

REALLY?

AS EXPECTED
OF SH-CHAN,
THAT'S SOME
JUDGING
ANALYSIS.



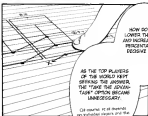
THAT'S WHY
GOING FOR
THE VOLLEY IS
LIMITED TO
ONLY WHEN
THE PLAYER
HAS AN ABSO-
LUTE ADVAN-
TAGE.

IT'S MUCH MORE
EFFECTIVE TO
KEEP ATTACKING
FROM THE LOW-
RISK BASELINE.



AS SUCH,
RATHER THAN
MOVING FOR-
WARD FOR A
HIGH RISK
VOLLEY,

THE PHYSIOLOGUE
OF THE PLAYERS
HAVE IMPROVED,
AND THEIR POWER
AND SPEED ARE
GETTING BETTER
AND BETTER.



HOW DO YOU
LOWER THE RISK
AND INCREASE THE
PERCENTAGE OF
DECISIVE HITS?

AS THE TOP PLAYERS
OF THE WORLD KEPT
DEFENDING THE JAWNER,
THE "TAKE THE ADVAN-
TAGE" OPTION BECAME
UNNECESSARY.

ON COURTS, IT IS USUALLY
AN UNCOMMON PLAYERS AND THE
ABOUT 10% OF THE POINTS.

ACQUIRING
MORE POWER
AND SPEED... IS
THAT RIGHT?



YOU JUST
HAVE TO
CHANGE
YOUR BASIC
MINDSET,
TOO.

BUT...
WHAT SHOULD
I DO TO WIN
AGAINST THE
BRAND OF
TIMIST?



OF COURSE!
THAT IS WHY WE
HAVE A TRAINING
FACILITY THAT IN-
CORPORATES THE
WORLD'S LATEST
TECHNOLOGIES.

I UNDERSTAND
THAT IT'S MUCH
MORE EFFECTIVE
TO ATTACK FROM
THE BACK.

THIS IS...
JUST A
THOUGHT

BUT YOUR ATTACK
CAN BE ANYTHING
AS LONG AS IT'S
DECISIVE, RIGHT?



WHAT'S
WRONG,
SH-CHAN?

CAN'T I
USE CONTROL
INSTEAD?

THEN RATHER
THAN RELYING
ON SPEED OR
POWER FOR THE
DECISIVENESS,

WELL,
IT'S PRETTY
DIFFICULT TO
IMPROVE CON-
TROL.

BUT...
YOUR SPEED
AND POWER
ARE SURE TO
IMPROVE
THROUGH
TRAINING.

CONTROL?

BUT IN MY CASE,
I FEEL IT'S MUCH
MORE EFFECTIVE
TO FOCUS MORE
ON CONTROL...

OF COURSE,
I DO WANT
TO INCREASE
MY SPEED
AND POWER,
TOO.

YUP...
ALTHOUGH IT
VARIES FROM
PERSON TO
PERSON,
THAT'S NORM-
ALLY THE
CASE.

REALLY?!



SOUNDS FUN!



WELL...
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

I JUST
THOUGHT IT'D
BE MUCH
BETTER TO
CONCENTRATE
MORE ON
AREAS IN
WHICH I FEEL
MORE CONFIDENT.



ALL THE STAFF,
LOVES NEW AND
INTERESTING DECS.

THIS IS THE
FRONTLINE
OF TERRORS.



GAF...
CAN YOU
REALLY DO
THAT?

THEN I'LL ASK
THE TECHNICAL
ADVISER TO THINK
ABOUT BUNCHING
OWN SPECIAL
TRAINING AREAS.



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!!



I'LL ASK FOR
IT TO BE DONE
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE

EVERY DAY
SOMETIME!



1:50 PM.
FREE TIME
AFTER DINNER.





AND THERE'S
EVEN SOMEONE
WHO GETS ALL
HAPPY AFTER
LOSING



Among us, he's
probably the one
who hates losing
the most

Krishna's
always cool.



Who, Alex?

You know how
he gets instantly
mad when he
loses



AH... I STILL
HAVE SOME
STUFF TO TAKE
CARE OF, SO...

HA...
I'M TIRED,
SO I'M
GOING TO
SEE.

ANYWAY, I
LOVE HIS
NORMAL
FOOD RE-
TURN-
SOON.



The angry one
isn't necessarily
the one who hates
losing the most.



Huh? Really?







FLORIDA
SHORT-TERM
STUDY
ABROAD:
MORNING OF
DAY 2

#77 STRATEGY







※「ren-shu-hou」 is the pronunciation for "practice book" in Japanese

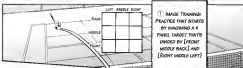
Practice methods for improving control

(Manus Elichero)





I WAS QUITE
SURPRISED AFTER
READING THE FIVE
GENERAL PRACTICE
METHODS WRITTEN
ON THAT OCCU-
PANT.



① IMAGE TRAINING:
PRACTICE THAT STARTS
BY IMAGINING A 3
FINGER TARGET THAT'S
CREATED BY (LEFT
MIDDLE BACK) AND
(RIGHT MIDDLE LEFT)



② CHECKING PRACTICE:
PRACTICE THAT ALWAYS
CHECKS THE FEELING OF
HITTING THE BALL, ITS
TRAJECTORY AND POINT
OF LANDING.



③ REPETITION
PRACTICE: PRACTICE
REPEATING ① AND
② WITH AS MUCH
INTENSIFICATION AS
POSSIBLE.



1
64
!!

SOMEHOW,
THESE THINGS
WERE THE
THINGS I WAS
ALREADY DOING
IN ORDER TO
WIN...

AND FOR
FUN IN
JAPAN.



THIS IS ALSO
SOMETHING
I NOTICED
RECENTLY AND
STARTED DOING.

④ ALL-
AROUND
STRENGTH-
ENING OF
THE LOWER
BODY.



AND AM
SUITED FOR
IT.

JUST AS I
THOUGHT, I LIKE
CONTROLLING
THE BALL.

SHAGHEM
WAS STARRING A
PICTURE ON THE
COURT, SO I THINK
IT'S TALKING ABOUT
A PERSONAL TRICK
LIKE THAT.

THAT RESEMBLED
AN INSULTIVE IDEA,
SO I HAD NO
CHOICE BUT TO
FIND IT WHILE
PLAYING.

SINCE ACCURACY IS
HIGHLY DEPENDENT
ON THE PLAYER'S
CONDITION, IT'S GOOD
TO HAVE YOUR OWN
PERSONAL METHOD TO
RELY UPON.

⑤ FIND YOUR
OWN METHOD TO
CONTROL THE BALL
BASED ON YOUR
PERSONAL EXPERI-
ENCE.



DAY 2,
AFTERNOON.
PRACTICE MATCH



One set match.
Maruo to serve!







BUT I NEED
TO MAKE THIS
STYLE MY OWN.

EVEN IF IT'S HARD
RIGHT NOW, IF I
ENDURE IT AND
KEEP ON TRYING,
IT'LL DEFINITELY
BE WORTH IT.

AND IN THIS STYLE,
I'LL PRIORITIZE
CONTROL OVER
SPEED OR POWER!!

RGH



BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN I'LL COMPROMISE
ON SPEED AND
POWER!!

I HAVE TO ADAPT
THIS NEW STYLE I
LEARNED IN AMERICA,
AND USE MY OWN
METHODS TO PUT IT
TO PRACTICE.



THAT IS
PRETTY
ARREST!

...BUT
...I'VE GOT
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
ACHIEVE IT
STEP BY
STEP.



... THAT MEANS, IN
OTHER WORDS,
I HAVE TO HIT THE
BALL WITH ENOUGH
CONTROL TO BE DE-
CISIVE, AND USE AS
MUCH POWER AS
POSSIBLE.
RIGHT...

MORE...!?



FIRST, HIT
THE BALL TO A
TOUGH SPOT
BY STEPPING
IN AT THE
RIGHT TIME.



ALL
RIGHT





Game. 3 - 0.
Pedro lead.



SHOULD I TRY
HITTING WITH
EVEN MORE
POWER?

CRAP... WITH
HER SKILLS,
EVEN IF I'M
NOT COM-
FELL, AM I CAN
RETURN IT
EASILY.



HE'S HAVING A
HARD TIME TODAY,
TOO



I heard you were
trying to use control on
your weapon

Yes?



HE SAYS
HE HEARD A
LOT FROM
AMEL.

WTF...
AH, YES...



Hey,
Marco.

OR SHOULD I
GO FOR EVEN
FASTER COM-
FELL...?







NO GOOD ... I HAVE
A BAD HABIT OF
FOCUSING MY
EYES ON ONE
POINT TOO MUCH.

What is he doing?

How should
I put it ...?
Murasu is pretty
awkward.

I can't quite imagine
how he managed to
reach this level after
starting tennis at
age 15 ...

LOOKING
AT MY ARM,

RUNNING TO
THE BALL,

TILL NOW,
I'VE BEEN
WATCHING
THE OPPO-
NENT,

EXPAND MY
FIELD OF
VISION A BIT
MORE ...

AND
CHECKED
THE POINT
OF LANDING,
BUT



*HALF OF MY
ATTENTION
GOES TO
MY AIM...*



*AND THE
OTHER HALF
GOES TO MY
OPPONENT,
AND WHERE I
HAVE TO
HIT...*



DOWN THE
LINE...!!



Out!
30 - LOVE



JUST NOW...
SINCE I SAW
MY OPPONENT'S
MOVEMENT, I
WAS ABLE TO
CHANGE THE
DIRECTION OF
MY HIT AT THE
LAST MOMENT.

THIS... CAN
BE REALLY
EFFECTIVE IF
I CAN DO IT
AGAIN.



GAH....!?



IT MIGHT BE
BETTER TO
JUST FOCUS
ON THE TARGET
AFTER THAT...

SINCE MOST
OF THE JOE'S
ALREADY DONE
BY THE TIME I
RETURNED TO
LEGORN.

AND MY
CONTROL
WASN'T AS
OFF AS I
EXPECTED.



I...
HAVE TO
GET MORE
USED TO
THIS, TOO...



ALL
ABOUT
ONCE
ABOUT





HA

FOR
HEAVY
SHOTS.

BUT, MORE
WEIGHT ON
MY PIVOT
LEG!!



FLORIDA
SHORT-TERM
STUDY ABROAD:
DAY 8



WITH A WIDE
FIELD OF VISION!!

BY CONTROL-
LING...

ATTACK
FROM THE
BASELINE!!

USING A TWO-STEP
FEANDE SWING
THE COURT INTO
FRONT AND BACK





DAY 4.





I FINALLY
STARTED
GETTING
USED TO THE
HEAVY
SHOTS!!

I'M ALSO LEARNING
THE TWO-STEP TENNIS
MUCH QUICKER THAN I
EXPECTED, SINCE IT'S
MORE OF A CHANGE IN
STRATEGY THAN
IMPROVING ON
TECHNIQUE.



MY ACCURACY ISN'T
INCREASING THAT
QUICKLY, BUT BY WIDEN-
ING MY FIELD OF VISION,
I'M STARTING TO SEE
THE POSSIBILITY OF
GETTING BETTER!



THAT IS
MODERN
TENNIS!!



IF I CAN'T
FINISH IT
WITH THE
FIRST SHOT,
GO FOR THE
SECOND...

MAKING THE
BODY REACT
WITHOUT ANY
ROOM TO THINK
UNDER KILL OR
BE KILLED
CONDITIONS.



EVEN THOUGH I'M
FOCUSING MORE
ON CONTROL THAN
OTHERS, I STILL
NEED POWER AND
SPEED.

PRACTICE,
CHECK, FLAK,
ANALYZE, AND
TRAIN BASED ON
A STATE-OF-
THE-ART TRAIN-
ING HELL.

MY FLORIDA
SHORT-TERM
STUDY ABROAD
WAS ABOUT TO
REACH THE ONE
WEEK TURNING
POINT.



YOU'RE
RIGHT—
BUT IT
DOESN'T
REALLY FEEL
LIKE IT.

THAT'S
RIGHT
THIS
YEAR'S
ALMOST
OVER, HEN?



Go gather up
the balls

All right,
that's it for
today





WHEN ARE
YOU GONNA
COME TO
MY PLACE?



THAT'S
RIGHT...



BECAUSE I'VE BEEN
ASKING YOU THIS
THOUSANDS OF
TIMES.

BUT I HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE TO HIT
EVEN ONCE.



キッ



EVEN IF I CAN'T GET COMPLETELY USED TO THIS TENNIS, I SHOULDN'T KEEP ON LOSING AGAINST THOSE OPPONENTS.

See ya later~

MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE EITHER PRO-CANDIDATES OR LOW-RANKING PROS.



I HAVE TO WIN AGAINST THE PRO-LEVEL WHO'S ABOUT TO BE A PRO OR ALIBU-REN WHO'S ON THE SAME LEVEL AS A PRO, JUST LIKE THE PEOPLE HERE.

I'LL ORDER DOWN THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR.



I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO WIN EVEN AGAINST ALEX WHO'S A TOP-LEVEL PLAYER AMONG THESE PEOPLE...

IN OTHER WORDS...







I'LL TRY
TO BEAT
EVERYONE
HERE.



FROM THIS
POINT ON, IT'S
REHEARSAL
FOR THE ALL-
JAPAN JUNIOR.



NO...



I'LL
DEFI-
NITELY
WIN!!



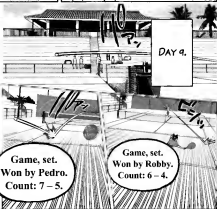
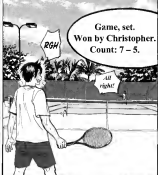


ATTACK
WITH CON-
TROL RIGHT
FROM THE
BACK!!

FOR
HEAVY
BALLS,
I'LL...







Out!

ONE
MIL!

Game, set.
Won by Atsushi.
Count: 6-4.

I'M NOT IN BAD
CONDITION... I'VE
BEEN ABLE TO PLAY
THE WAY I WANT,
TOO...

BUT
I GOTTA TAKE
THE POINT
AT CRITICAL
MOMENTS...

WHY...
WHY
CAN'T I
WIN?!

I'VE LOST
ALL 27
MATCHES...!

WITH
THIS, IN
THE PAST
9 DAYS...





BUT MY OPPONENTS ARE ON THE SAME BOAT.

3 = 4.

3 = 4.

3 = 3...

I MAKE A LOT OF MISTAKES IN CRITICAL MOMENTS.

BUT WHY DO I KEEP ON LOSING LIKE THIS EVEN AGAINST OPPONENTS WHO ARE ON A HIGHER LEVEL?

MAYBE NOT AGAINST PLAYERS WHO ARE ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL.

END



CAN I REALLY WIN THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR LIKE THIS...?

I EVEN GET SO CLOSE AT TIMES... BUT WHY CAN'T I HEART?

I'M BECOMING ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE THINGS I'VE LEARNED.

I'M BECOMING ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE THINGS I'VE LEARNED.

I'VE LOST ALL OF MY MATCHES!!

IN THE '90S I'VE STAYED IN FLORIDA.

IF I CAN'T RUN, WHEN
I'VE LEARNED TO
FIGHT, WHEN I
REALLY NEED IT, I
WON'T WIN THE
ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR
NO MATTER HOW
MUCH I TRAIN...

40% CONTROL SLIP-UP
 AT 80-90 ON 2 GAMES
 TO A WIDE GAP...!!
 EVEN IF I'M CARRYING
 MUCH HIGHER RISK
 THAN BEFORE, WHY DO
 I KEEP MISSING ON
 THESE TURNING
 POINTS?

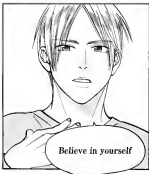


PLAYING GOOD
KID. IF IT'S
AGAINST
DANTELO, I FEEL
LIKE I SHOULD BE
ABLE TO GET AT
LEAST ONE HIT

Yes??



Maruo!





	THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR PRELIMINARIES... I NEED TO GET RESULTS WITHIN THIS LIMITED TIME BEFORE THE BATTLE I MUST ON...~~ON...~~ 時間大分	BUT THIS TIME, THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT... "EVENTUALLY" DOESN'T CUT IT.
OUT	~~ON...~~ 時間大分	
IN	ON... 時間大分	
JAN	ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR INDOOR SELECTIONS	
MAR	SANDWICH PASTORALS JAPAN TENNIS COMPETITION	
JULY	SANDWICH JAPAN TENNIS COMPETITION	
SEP	ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR TENNIS COMPETITION	



AM CONFIDENT
ABOUT BEING
ABLE TO WORK
HARDER,

I...

BUT
I WAS NEVER
CONFIDENT AT
DOING THINGS
BETTER THAN
OTHERS.



AUDIO-FILM
COACH WANTS
TO ASK YOU
ABOUT THIS

EH...?



NEXT DAY

IT DOESN'T
FEEL THAT I
HAVE THE SAME
MOTIVATION OF
"IF I HAD ON
THE FIRST DAY.

I HAVE
A STRONG
DESIRE TO
TRY HARD IN
MY HEAD, BUT
WHEN IT
COMES TO MY
MOTIVATION...

	SCORE 0-10
AMOUNT OF SLEEP	5
QUALITY OF SLEEP	5
AMOUNT OF FOOD	5
QUALITY OF FOOD	5
MOTIVATION	5

WEIGHT ± -0.1

PERMANENT RECORD





AFTERNOON
PRACTICE
MATCH



WIDE FIELD OF
VISION, AND...
CONTROL!



HA



Watch where
you're going!



So... sorry...

Excuse?

Maical

Then, bye



EVEN THOUGH I
KNOW I
JUST HAVE
TO STOP
THINKING
ABOUT
HAPPINESS,
RIGHT
NOW, THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE...

HONESTLY,
I CAN'T
THINK OF
ANYTHING
OTHER
THAN "I
WANT TO
DIE"...



You're looking
gloomy!
Man up!

PPFF

1/3





Wait... wait, are
you okay?!

No way, I
didn't hit you
that hard!

I...I'm fine
I'm fine!

Hey, Ei-chan
I've been waiting!



But why're
you with
Narcis?



DO I
REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO BY
MYSELF?

WHEN I TRY
TO RELAX
I END UP
PUTTING TOO
MUCH STRESS
ON OTHER
PEOPLE...



THE PROBLEM
IS WHAT TO DO
WITH THIS "LOADING
POINT" THAT LEADS
YOU TO LEAD TOO
MUCH STRESS?
DURING CRITICAL
MOMENTS AND
RESULTS IN
AND LOSES

I HEARD ABOUT
IT FROM THE
COACH, AND I
WATCHED THE
MATCH YOU
PLAYED JUST
NOW.

SO FIRST, YOU
NEED TO GAIN
A GOOD UNDER-
STANDING OF
THE CAUSE, AND
THEN SEARCH
FOR YOUR OWN
SOLUTION.

ALSO, THERE
ARE TYPES OF
DAMAGE TO
PSYCHOLOGICAL
PROBLEMS. THE
SOLUTIONS
OFFER FROM
PERSON TO
PERSON, AND
THERE ISN'T ANY
ONE DEFINITIVE
ANSWER.

THE WORST
CONDITION IS
WHEN YOU DON'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT WINNING.
SO THIS ISN'T
THE WORST-CASE
SCENARIO.

LET'S SEE...
BUT BEFORE
THAT,
MCHAM,

KNOW THAT THERE IS
A SLUMP THAT MOST
PEOPLE WITH A STRONG
DESIRE TO WIN HAVE TO GO
THROUGH, AND THAT THIS
IS CERTAINLY NOT BECAUSE
YOUR MOTIVATION IS
LACKING.

WHEN YOUR MIND
TOLD YOU TO WIN,
YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS
HAD ALREADY LOST
CONFIDENCE, AND
COULDN'T RECOVER...
THAT'S THE CAUSE OF
YOUR LOSING HABIT.



THANKS TO
THAT, YOU ADAPTED
TO YOUR THINGS
GRADUALLY, BUT AS A
PRICE, YOU HAVE
SUBCONSCIOUSLY
BEEN LOSING CONFIDENCE
DUE TO THE
CONSTANT LOSSES.

THE CAUSE IS PRETTY
CLEAR... IN ORDER TO
ADAPT TO THE NEW
THINGS IN THIS PLACE,
YOU'VE BEEN LEARNING
IT THROUGH YOUR
WATCHING WITHOUT
CONSIDERATION FOR WINNING.

I WANT TO
RECOVER MY
NATURAL
CONFIDENCE,
RIGHT??

THAT
MEANS...
USING
MY OWN
METHODS...

YUP...
IN OTHER
WORDS, ALL YOU
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.



I'D HEARD THAT
HE'S HAVING A
HARD TIME, BUT
I THOUGHT HE
WOULD HAVE SOME
ROOM TO RELAX...

EVEN ALEX...
WHO FEELS
PUSHED TO
THE EDGE...

THAT'S
WHAT SHE
SAID...

BUT AFTER
BECOMING A
PRO...

AND TENNIS
BECOMES MY
DAILY LIFE,

IF I KEEP ON
LOSING LIKE
THIS,

THE PLAYING
WITH THE GOLF
INSTEAD OF
BECOMING A
PRO...

CAN I STILL
SAY SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?

Believe in yourself

But it's the same
for everyone here.

Alex is...
amazing.

In the professional world, even if you don't lose, you're a loser if you can no longer believe in yourself...

But these are the hurdles that test whether you can really live as a pro or not.

But all of them have moments when they keep on losing...

Just like Eiichiro, they want to win in order to be pros.



Well, well...
They all have their reasons!

In the first place, you're still an amateur just like me (Doesn't he so depressed?)



...Brother scolds me with that quite often...



THAT'S WHY THERE'S THIS
NICE HUNNY IN
AMERICA

THE ONLY
THING LEFT
FOR ME TO DO
IS TO REFRAIN
FROM ASKING
YOU TO TRY
HARDER! BECAUSE
YOU'RE AL-
READY TRYING
SO HARD

ANYWAY,
THAT'S ALL
I CAN TELL
YOU FOR
NOW





Good luck!!

I PRAY FOR
YOUR GOOD
FORTUNE!

SO ALL
THAT'S
LEFT IS
LUCK...!?









BLIND BUT FORM
RIGHT FROM THE
START... THIS IS MY
WORST CONDITION
YET!!



MY RACKET
IS MISSED
UP, TOO.

I DIDN'T
EVEN NOTICE MY
SHOE LACES WERE
LOOSE... FORGET
ABOUT RECOVERING
MY CONFIDENCE, I'M
NOT EVEN LOOKING
AT MYSELF



IF IT DOESN'T
WORK NO MATTER
WHAT I TRY, ALL
THAT'S LEFT IS
LUCK!!

GET A
HOLD OF YOUR-
SELF!!



ARGH



Are you done?

Ah...
yes?





LOVE - 15





LOVE - 15



#80 SAME



JUST NOW...
IT WAS PRETTY
GOOD FOR SOME
REASON.

WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

I GOT
GUILTY ON
MY BACK-
LICKER AND
FELL...

THE STRINGS
ON MY RACKET
WERE BROKEN
UP, TOO.

I HAD TO
REUSE THE
RETURN
WITHOUT
ANY PLAN.





LOVE - 30

ALL
RIGHT
!!

ONE MORE
FORE... IT'S
NEARLY MIDNIGHT
ONCE MORE,
RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW
HOW, BUT I'M
DOING FINE!
AFTER FILING
MY RACKET AND
TAKING A DEEP
BREATH...

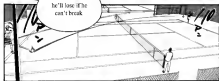
I DIDN'T
PUT ANY
UNNECESSARY
STRESS ON
IT!!

I DIDN'T MAKE
A BADFACE
EVEN THOUGH
I ATTACKED!!



Game, Pedro.
3-0







Game, Maruo.
5 - 3



AND I CAN'T
BREAK IF I
DON'T GET
EVEN MORE
ADVANTAGE
THAN BEFORE !!

IN OTHER
WORDS,
I'M NOW
FACED WITH
A SERIES
OF CRITICAL
MOMENTS
...

BUT IF
I CAN'T
MANAGE IT
NOW, I'LL
LOSE ...

I'VE BEEN ABLE
TO KEEP MY BEHAVIOR
GAMBLER, BUT HE
DOESN'T LET ME
BREATHE



PLEASE
!!



IF I
CAN PLAY
PROPER
OPPOSITE
TECHNIQUE...

FOR THE
RACKET AND
TAKE A DEEP
BREATH...
IT SORT OF
FEELS LIKE
A PRAYER,
BUT...



I see!
It's a routine.

Routine...?



He's been
unusually
concerned about
his racket.

I wonder
what's wrong...

HEART'S BOUNCING THE BALL
THE SAME WAY



YUP.
THAT.

WITH ROUTINES, BY
REPEATING THE SAME
MOVEMENT EVERY TIME,
PLAYERS CAN ACHIEVE
A CONSTANT MENTAL
AND PHYSICAL STATE.

FOR
EXAMPLE, ~~LODGE~~
PLAYERS
TAKE THREE
A SERIES



YOU REIN
REPEATING
THE SAME
MOVEMENT
EVERY TIME.

LIKE A BASKETBALL
PLAYER THROBS
SPRINGS BEFORE
THE DROPT



30 - 30

ALTHOUGH
IT'S SMALL,
THIS IS
SOMETHING
PRETTY
EFFECTIVE
FOR HER
RIGHT NOW

BUT ALTHOUGH
HE MANAGED
TO FIND HIS
OWN ROUTINE
WHEN HE
FELL DOWN
EASILY



SINCE HE'S A HARD
WORKER AND WANTS
TO WIN NO MATTER
WHAT RIGHT NOW, HE
HAS A TENDENCY TO
BLAMH FOR POINTS



YOU'RE
RIGHT... HE'S
LITERALLY
"SOMEONE
WHO DOESN'T
FALL EASILY"



SEEMS LIKE IT
WAS LUCKY FOR
HER TO FALL

THAT'S
NOT ALL

NORMALLY, CAN
YOU COME UP
WITH A NEW
IDEA JUST BY
FALLING?





30 - 40



IT...
IT WENT
IN!!





**I CAN
DO IT!!**



Game Maruo.
5-4

BREAK!!

KEEPING MY
MIND CLEAR
AND FOCUSING
ABOUT
STRATEGY...
AND MY
MOVEMENTS!

I WANT TO
KEEP THIS
UP...

IN THIS
MATCH, AS
LONG AS I
CAN PLAY THE
GAME AS IN
PRACTICE,
EVEN WHEN
IT GETS A BIT
SOMEHOW
WIDE.

ALL RIGHT...
AS LONG AS I
DON'T PUT TOO
MUCH STRESS, I
CAN BREAK.



WHAT
MATTERS
RIGHT NOW
ISN'T TRYING
HARD TO
WIN...

Game, Maruo.
5-5

IT'S PLAYING WHILE
APPLYING WHAT I'VE
LEARNED TILL NOW...

AND
BENEFITING IN
MYSELF

STRENGTH
REVERSED

Game, Marnu.
6-5

Marnu took the
game again!!



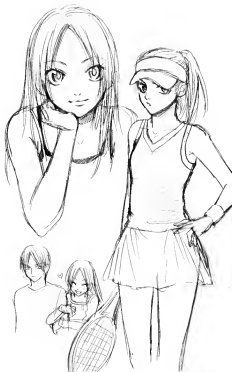




Game, set,
Won by Maruo.
Count: 7 - 5







Baby Steps



#81 WANT TO KNOW



"YOU
THE RACKET
AND TAKE A
DEEP BREATH
BEFORE PLAY-
ING... YOU
STARTED GET-
TING BETTER
AFTER THAT

MIKE!



ALL
THAT'S
RIGHT



I SHOULD
WRITE THEM
DOWN BEFORE
I FORGET



THIS WAS
SOMETHING
YOU COULD
WORK ON
PROACTIVELY

WHEN YOU FELT
YOU INSTINCTIVELY
REALIZED YOU
HAD TO FIX
YOUR RACKET

YURI
IT'S DEFI-
NITELY A
SUITABLE
METHOD FOR
YOU... AND
THERE IS A
REASON

THEN YOUR
CONSCIOUSNESS
REPLAYED IT
OVER AND OVER
AS A ROUTINE



YEAH!
I DON'T REALLY
KNOW WHY, BUT
THAT REALLY
HELPED A COUPLE
OF TIMES

AND YOU
SAID EVERY-
ONE HAS A
DIFFERENT
WAY OF GET-
TING OVER A
CLUMP



IT'S
THE RESULT
OF YOUR
CONSCIOUS-
NESS MAKING
THE BEST OUT
OF THE
MISERABLE
CHOICE BY
YOUR INSTIN-
CTION

IF YOU HAVE
A PROACTIVE
ACTION YOUR
ROUTINE, THE
EFFECT IS EVEN
GREATER

EFFECTIVELY
HELP SUSTAIN
YOUR MOOD
WHEN YOU'RE IN
GOOD CONDITION,
AND GIVE YOU A
BOOST WHEN
YOU'RE NOT
DOING TOO
WELL

ACTUALLY,
MOVES LIKE
THAT DURING
THE GAME



...ALTHOUGH
I KNOW JUST
FEELINGS...



HA
HA
HA

I TOLD YOU
IT'S GOOD TO
BELIEVE IN
YOURSELF,
RIGHT?

YOUR
INTUITION
MADE THE
GREATEST
CHOICE FOR
WINNING



OH?
WHAT'S
THIS?

FEEDO
HITS GREAT
STROKES OFF
THE FOREHEAD,
BUT LACKS
VARIATION...



What? Are
you
reading
about me?

With with with...
Stop!!
STOOOOOOP!!



20002





THAT'S RIGHT...
SINCE I WON
ONCE, I CAN
FOIGHT HER AGAIN
NOW...!!



He says the
manga is... sounds like
more battles going

Sounds
good



Thanks, Alex

"Believe in
yourself" very
important

AND
WON
7-5!!

AFTER THAT,
I FOUGHT
CHRISTOPHER,











**THIR-
TEEN
!?**

TOO BAD
FOR HER,
BUT MARIKA
IS STILL
THIRTEEN,
SO...

THAT MEANS...
IN JAPAN, SHE'D
BE IN 1ST YEAR
OF JUNIOR
SCHOOL...?

What...?

*Why're you staring
at me like that!?*

I THOUGHT
SHE WAS THE
SAME AGE AS
ME

HOW ARE
THINGS WITH
NATSU?

AREN'T
SOMETHING'S
GIVEN "FRIENDS"
BY CIRCUMSTANCE
FOR A WHILE

WELL...
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, HOW...?
WELL SO
GLORIOUS...?

MARUO-KUN!
HE IS YES
IT'S ONLY
TO PLAY
TOMORROW
MORNING!

HA
DIE-
KUN

YUP

THAT'S RIGHT,
THE-KUN'S
NACCHU'S
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND, RIGHT?

UMMM?

WE
WE'RE
FRIENDS

HOW
SHOULD
I SAY IT,
UMMA...

ALTHOUGH
I'M HER
FIANCE,
TOO



HAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA



WHICH
IS IT?

IS THAT
REAL?
A JOKE?



YET I WAS
EXPECTING
THAT SORT OF
REACTION!



THANKS TO MIKE,
IKE-KUN, AND
ATSUSHI-SAN'S
HELP, I WAS ABLE
TO TALK TO A LOT
OF PEOPLE THAT
NIGHT.



Hey! What was
that about?

It's about
Muro's
girlfriend!

EHMMMM?
Ekihiro has a
girlfriend??



S... SORRY...
IT'S A JOKE.
I'M TRYING
TO TELL YOU IT'S A
JOKE!
CANNOT HELP!

THE
ONE
JOKE...

IT'S SORRY
WHEN THE
WORST GUY
GETS MAD

NEXT
MORNING,
6:00.
ON THE
COURT



TALKING ABOUT
FAMILY, ABOUT
LOVE AND
FRIENDS...

ABOUT OUR
FAVORITE
TENNIS
PLAYERS...



ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF
TENNIS...

IN THE END,
WE ENDED
UP WITH
TENNIS
TALK...



AND
FINALLY...



HEY

STOOD MY
VERY FIRST
OPPONENT OF
THE YEAR.

GOOD
MORNING.



WELL,
SOMEHOW

BUT I DO
WISH I COULD
SPEAK MORE
ENGLISH

DID YOU
HAVE FUN
YESTERDAY?



EVERY DAY
GOES BY
REALLY
QUICKLY

I THINK I'VE
NEVER HAD A
WINTER BREAK
THAT FELT SO
SHORT

IN ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER,
YOU'VE HAD A
LOT OF FUN
STAYING HERE!



IT WAS MY
FIRST TIME
STRESSING
ABOUT TEENS
LIKE THAT.

ALTHOUGH AT
TIMES I GOT
STRESSED AND
WASNT HAVING
FUN







FROM THE
MOMENT I
FIRST HELD A
RACKET, UP
UNTIL TODAY.

TENNIS HAS
BEEN SO MUCH
FUN.

I WANTED THE
FUN TO LAST
FOREVER.

SO I WISHED
TO BECOME A
PRO...



BUT AT
THE SAME
TIME,

I'M SURE
THAT
THERE
ARE MORE
JOYS TO
COME.

THINKING
ANYTHING
I'VE EVER
FASER.



BUT AFTER
COMING HERE
AND MEETING
VARIOUS
PEOPLE,

I REALIZED
THAT IT'S NOT
ALWAYS FUN.
THAT I
THINK I
THINK I
THINK I
DON'T KNOW

Believe in yourself!



THEY'VE ALSO
HAD TWO MORE
HAPPY DAYS
AS A PRO...

THEY'VE ALSO
HAD TWO MORE
HAPPY DAYS
AS A PRO...

WHAT IS IT
LIKE... TO BE
A PRO?

THEY'VE ALSO
HAD TWO MORE
HAPPY DAYS
AS A PRO...

#82 RESULT











**AND
FINISH!!**







WHERE AND
HOW AM I
SUPPOSED
TO HIT THE
BALL??

...THEN...
WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO TO
GET A
POINT??



NOT ONLY
DID HE JUST
REACH MY
LUCKY
SHOT...

AND THE
BEST PART I
CAN HIT ON
COURT...

BUT HE
WENT
FOR THE
KILL
POSS!



WHAT
BEGAN
AFTER
THAT

WAS AN
UNBELIEVABLY
ONE-SIDED
BATTLE!!



SINCE I'M A
MUCH WEAKER
OPPONENT,

HE PLAYS
REALLY
OFFENSIVELY
AND DOESN'T
HESITATE TO
TAKE RISKS.

I THOUGHT HE
WAS AMAZING
BEFORE, BUT
IT'S EVEN
MORE THAN
THAT!



NO MATTER
WHERE I HIT, A
MOMENT LATER
I'M FACING A
FULLER SHOT
FLASHING
DOWN ON ME.

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ALL MY HARD
WORK SINCE
THAT DAY?



I'M FINALLY
ABLE TO SEE
HOW INCREDIBLE
HE IS BECAUSE
OF HOW MUCH
I'VE IMPROVED

No...
THAT'S
WRONG!!

MOST OF THE
GAMES ENDED
WITH A MINUTE
WITHIN THREE
SHOTS.

THE ONLY
POINTS I GOT
WERE FIVE
BECAUSE FROM
THE-KUUL.

THIS IS...
THE POWER OF
A MAN WHO'S
TRYING TO
STAND ON TOP
OF THE WORLD.



I'VE BEEN
ABLE TO
WITNESS
THE WORLD
OF TOP
LEVEL PROS



UP-CLOSE,
WITH MY
OWN EYES.





Ahhhhhh
I WANT TO GET
STRONGER!

EVEN
MORE.













BY MAKING
FULL USE OF
ALL THE DATA
I'VE ACCUMU-
LATED HERE...



A KICKER
DOWN THE
MIDDLE!!



I'LL
WIN!!



IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
BEFORE
ALEX
COMES
FORWARD,
KICK THE
BALL ON
THE RISE...



...THAT
MEANS
HE'LL
MOVE
UP!!







1000



1000



10



FOR
FORWARD
HONORABLE
PROFESSOR
OF
OF

I HAVE TO
 GO BACK
 WITH ALL MY
 EQUIPMENT

三



I'LL DEFINITELY
WIN...

AND SEE
WHAT LIES
BEYOND!!

CAMPUS
CITY

WOW...
I'M SURE I'LL
BE ABLE TO
FILL THIS CUP
WITH ALL THE
THINGS I'VE
ANALYZED

I'M NO
MATCH IN
TERMS OF
TECHNIQUE,
POWER OR
EXPERI-
ENCE.

...CURRENTLY,
I'M NO
DEFINITELY A
STEP BETTER
THAN ME



15 - 30

RGH



30 - 30

FIRST SET
FIRST
GAME

SECOND
ADVANTAGE
OF ALDOUS
UNSTABLE
START.

30 - 40

SECOND
SUCCEEDS IN
BREAKING

Game, Maruo.
1 - 0

ALL
RIGHT!!



DON'T
COME
FOCUS
NEXT.

NO MATTER
WHAT I TRY,
THAT'S ALL
I CAN GET.





MOVING
AND STRONG
FORWARD
AND FOCUSING
ON ATTACKING
HIS BACKHAND
IS DEFINITELY
WORKING.



*Not only are my serves
getting returned more
than I expected*

*but it's hard to go
for an attack with
my forehand*

*He's quite accurately reading
my intentions of gaining the
advantage with the serve and
flexing with the forehand*



2 — 0

AFTER THAT,
ANOTHER BREAK...
DON'T GIVE
HOPPEL

BUT WITH TACTICS
DIVERSED FROM
ALICE'S DATA,
MARIO SUCCESS-
FULLY HOLDS HIS
SERVICE GAME.



2 — 1



3 — 1

THE MATCH
SURPRISINGLY
PROGRESSES WITH
EACHONE ONE
BREAK LEAD.

3 — 2





*Is this...
the fruit of
his study?*



Shit... 4-5 on
the second set!!
There!!

If I hadn't made that
stupid mistake, I definitely
would've turned it around!!



Game, set,
match. Won
by Tary.

Count:
7-5, 6-4



*Am I... straining too
much on winning
after becoming a
pro....?*



I know...
that

No matter how much
you regret it, you
can't get back to that
4-5 game in the
second set



No matter how much
you think about it after
losing, you can't
change the outcome

D...dad



Then just
forget about it.



Don't turn back.
Believe in yourself and
keep on moving forward

You kept on
going without
hesitation, right?

Then there's
nothing to regret
about that past.



*I only looked
forward
Aggressively...*

*Not fearing
failure, not
looking back.*



*But I started
lacking something
that's necessary to
go that extra step*

*That's how I
was able to get
this far.*



**Game, 4 - 2.
Maruo leads**



*Even if you can't
change the past, maybe
it's worth looking back if
there's something big
enough to change the
future*

*Maybe there are parts
that should be forgotten
and parts that should be
accepted*



*But now, by thoroughly
reflecting upon his past,
he's gotten in the lead*

*Two weeks ago, Maruo
was no match for me...*

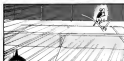
Fault!

IT'S A TOTALLY
DIFFERENT SERVICE
PATTERN FROM
BEFORE.

A WIDE FLAT
ON A DEUCE
COURT?



**A SLICE
TO THE
CENTER?!**



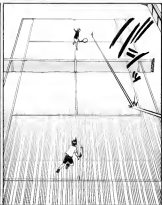
**BACK-
HAND
SLICE!!**

**EVEN THOUGH
HE'S BEEN
ACTIVELY
SWITCHING TO
THE FORWARD
GRABTING
WITH TOPSPIN
GUTS, NOW!!**



!?







*I know very well
what's written on
those notes...*

*Even though I never
looked back, it's still
my own past!*



*I KNEW IT...
IT'S DIFFERENT
FROM THE
DATA.*



*If you thought you learned
everything about me in just
two weeks,*

*you couldn't be
more wrong.*



Baby Steps

Although I couldn't write
much about it 'cause they've
been playing games the whole
time, remember that they also
had some free time





haha, this is Katsura.
Thanks you so much for saving volume 9.

It was an American girl.
Some of the boys don't play tennis every day.
the captain was also tennis club.
The American boy was up on for a bit more.

to show some in getting better and better, so I
want to get better the last member to all the
world. I know's how old to play tennis at all.
and my friend is currently working...
Hahaha...

But it's fortunate that I'm still healthy.

well then, let me start writing!

Play Globe

novel



AWs:
Shore

Translator:
Ruggie

Proofreader:
Georgi
Purgatory 13z

Cleaner:
Stark

Typesetter:
Gusaway

Q-Checker:
likejoad

